**Key Facts**

- 46.3% of children (<18 years) in California experience poverty.³

- Minimum wage in California as of January 1, 2019 is $11.00/hour for employers with <25 employees, and $12.00/hour for employers with 26 employees or more.⁴

- A person who works full-time earning a minimum wage of $11.00/hr would earn $22,957 per year. He or she would be in poverty (<200% FPL).

- The San Joaquin Valley has a poverty rate of 48.5% — the highest rate of any region in California.²

- Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), California has the highest poverty rate of any state in the U.S. at 19%.⁵

**Programs to Alleviate Poverty**

- Medi-Cal
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- CalWORKs
- CalFresh
- National School Lunch Program
- Housing Choice Voucher Program

**Salary Spotlight: Fresno**

In the Fresno metro area, the median salaries of retail salespersons, farmworkers, and office clerks are $28,900, $31,500, and $37,200, respectively. The income needed to afford the rent for a two-bedroom home in the area is $38,300.⁶

**Related HCI Indicators**

- Housing cost burden
- Unemployment rate
- Living wage

**To Learn More about HCI**

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/HCI-Search.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/HCI-Search.aspx)

**Contact us**

HCIOHE@cdph.ca.gov

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**Why Poverty Matters to Health**

Poverty is an important public health issue. It limits access to basic material necessities such as housing, food, education, jobs and transportation, and thereby impacts the ability to live a healthy life.

**Measuring Poverty**

Poverty and low income can be measured in various ways. Due to California’s high cost of living, 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) is a more realistic measure of financial hardship than the official 100% FPL.

**What does 200% FPL look like?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household size</th>
<th>Annual Income¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$24,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$33,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$42,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$51,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disparities in Poverty**

1 in 3 Californians (36.1%)² live in poverty – that’s 12.9 million Californians.

Latinos, African Americans, and American Indians/Alaska Natives are twice as likely as whites to be in poverty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHOPI</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native.
NHOPI: Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.

May 2019
References


